

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: PONOMAREV AND ZAGLADIN BRING PARTY LINE TO LISBON

REF: LISBON 7887 (DTG 151637Z NOV 76)

SUMMARY: CPSU-CC SECRETARY BORIS PONOAREV AND HIS DEPUTY VADIM ZAGLADIN, IN LISBON FOR THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS, PLEDGED SOVIET FIDELITY TO THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI. ZAGLADIN SAW LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FOREIGN POLICY CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS BY FORD AND CARTER; ZAGLADIN HOPED FOR "NORMAL RELATIONS" BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE USSR BASED ON PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. PONOMAREV AND ZAGLADIN IN LISBON: BORIS PONOMAREV, CPSU-CC SECRETARY, AND HIS DEPUTY, VADIM ZAGLADIN, HEADED THE SOVIET UNCLASSIFIED

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DELEGATION TO THE NOV 11-14 PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS.

AS EXPECTED, CUNHAL AND THE PCP ROLLED OUT THE RED CARPET. PONOMAREV RECEIVED DEFERENTIAL TREATMENT AND SHARED THE SPOTLIGHT WITH CUNHAL HIMSELF AT THE CONGRESS FINALE. HE WAS RECEIVED BY BOTH PRESIDENT EANES AND PRIME MINISTER SOARES. ONLY SOUR NOTES WERE SCATTERED SIGNS OF PROTEST AND A FEW PRESS ARTICLES TAGGING THE SOVIET DUO AS THE ARCHITECTS OF THE NEAR-SUCCESSFUL COMMUNIST POWER GRAB IN PORTUGAL.

2. PONOMAREV LOOKS TO THE PAST: HIGHLIGHTS OF PONOMAREV'S REMARKS AT THE CONCLUDING SESSION OF THE PCP CONGRESS INCLUDED:

-- IT WAS THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE, NOT OUTSIDE PRESSURE, WHO CHANGED PORTUGAL'S DESTINY. THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE.

-- COMMUNISTS ARE CRITICIZED FOR THEIR ALLEGED SUBORDINATION TO FOREIGN INSTRUCTIONS AGAINST THE NATIONAL INTEREST; NOTHING COULD BE FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH. THE CALL BY THE CONGRESS FOR AN ALLIANCE OF UNITY AMONG ALL TRUE DEMOCRATS AND PATRIOTS IS TESTIMONY OF DEDICATION TO THE NATION'S WELFARE.

-- THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY IS NEVERTHELESS A PARTY OF TRUE INTERNATIONALISTS. THE CONGRESS DEMONSTRATED THAT THERE IS NO INCOMPATIBILITY BETWEEN AN INTERNATIONALIST PARTY AND A PARTY OF PATRIOTS.

-- UNDENIABLE PROGRESS IN THE SOVIET UNION PUTS THE LIE TO BOURGEOIS PROPAGANDA WHICH ASSERTS THAT THE PATH TO SOCIALISM LEADS TO CHAOS AND RUIN.

-- THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE WAS A MILESTONE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY. ALL HONEST MEN MUST REALIZE THAT, IF EVENTS DEVELOP AS FORESEEN AT HELSINKI, SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY WILL BE VINDICATED.

-- BUT THERE IS STILL SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO LASTING PEACE. EVEN IF THE DANGER OF ANEW WAR WERE ELIMINATED, PROBLEMS WOULD REMAIN. THE PRINCIPAL MANIFESTATION OF THIS DANGER IS THE ARMS RACE. THE SOVIET UNION BELIEVES DECISIVE ACTION IS REQUIRED TO END THE ARMS RACE. TO BLAME THE USSR FOR THE ARMS RACE AS SOME IN THE WEST DO, IS AN ABSOLUTE LIE. IT IS OBVIOUS, HOWEVER, THAT AS LONG AS THE NATO COUNTRIES INCREASE ARMAMENTS, THE USSR CANNOT IGNORE ITS OWN DEFENSE.

-- TODAY THE USSR CONCENTRATES ITS EFFORTS, IN ADDITION TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE ARMS RACE, TO THE SOLUTION OF

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PROBLEMS, SUCH AS (A) ENDING EXISTING CONFLICTS, ABOVE ALL IN THE MIDDLE EAST; (B) DEVELOPING COOPERATION AMONG EUROPEAN STATES; AND (C) CONTINUING ATTENTION TO STRENGTHENING PEACE IN ASIA.

3. ZAGLADIN LOOKS TO THE FUTURE: ZAGLADIN ECHOED MANY OF THE SAME THEMES IN AN "INTERVIEW" APPEARING IN THE NOV 23 EDITION OF "A CAPITAL." IN ADDITION, HE INCLUDED

A SECTION ON US-USSR RELATIONS WHICH IS QUOTED BELOW:

-- THE SOVIET UNION HAS SOUGHT TO PROMOTE THE NORMAL AND PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. ALTHOUGH NOT AGREEING WITH THE "SUPERPOWER" THESIS, WE CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT, DUE TO THE ENORMOUS MILITARY POWER OF BOTH COUNTRIES, EACH CARRIES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE. THE SOVIET UNION IS PREPARED TO ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILITY.

-- ANY RELATIONS IN THE FOREIGN POLICY AREA DO NOT DEPEND ON A SINGLE PARTY. IF ONE ANALYZES THE SPEECHES OF CARTER AND FORD BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, THERE ARE NO GREAT DIFFERENCES. THE UNITED STATES NOW HAS A NEW PRESIDENT, A NEW ADMINISTRATION. I WOULD NOT LIKE TO SPECULATE ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES OR DISADVANTAGES WHICH ONE MAN WOULD HAVE OVER THE OTHER. THE FUTURE WILL DEMONSTRATE THE COURSE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL FOLLOW.

-- NOT WISHING IN ANY WAY TO INTERVENE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES, I WOULD STILL LIKE TO SAY THE FOLLOWING: WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE THE PATH OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE USSR ON THE BASIS OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.

4. TEXT OF BOTH STATEMENTS WILL BE POUCHED.

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